

Sub B1 36. (New) An apparatus for resecting tissue within a body lumen, comprising:

an operating capsule selectively coupleable to a flexible endoscope, the operating capsule, when in an operative position, being located within a body lumen adjacent to a selected portion of tissue to be resected, the operating capsule including a suturing assembly and defining a cutting zone adjacent to the suturing assembly; and

92 a tissue grabber drawing the selected portion of tissue into the cutting zone, wherein the suturing assembly fastens together portions of tissue adjacent to the selected portion of tissue.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising a cutting element for cutting the selected portion of tissue from the portions of tissue fastened together by the suturing assembly.

Sub B2 38. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein (the anvil and stapling mechanism) are movably coupled to one another for movement between a closed position and a tissue receiving position.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the endoscope is slidably received within an endoscope receiving lumen formed in the operating capsule.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising:

a flexible sheath, a distal end of which is coupled to a proximal end of the operating capsule; and

a control handle coupled to a proximal end of the sheath wherein, when the operating capsule is in an operative position within a body lumen, the control handle remains outside the body lumen.

Sub B3 41. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising a first flexible control element extending from (the control handle) through (the sheath) to (the operating head.)

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the first control element is a cable extending between the control handle and the suturing assembly.

Sub  
p27  
43. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the anvil and (the suturing mechanism) are rotatably coupled to one another for movement between the closed and tissue receiving positions.

92  
cont.  
44. (New) A system for resecting tissue from within a body lumen, comprising:  
an endoscope;  
an operating head selectively coupleable to the endoscope, the operating head including an anvil and a stapling mechanism moveable with respect to one another between a closed position in which the anvil and the stapling mechanism are adjacent to one another and a tissue receiving position in which the anvil is separated from the stapling mechanism;  
a flexible sheath extending from a distal end of the operating head so that, when the operating head is in an operative position within a body lumen, a proximal end of the flexible sheath extends out of the body lumen; and  
a control handle coupled to the proximal end of the flexible sheath.

45. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the endoscope is slidably received through a lumen extending within the operating head.

46. (New) The system of claim 44, further comprising a first flexible control member extending within the flexible sheath between the control handle and the stapling mechanism.

Sub  
B57  
47. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the operating head further comprises a position adjusting mechanism for adjusting the position of the anvil relative to the stapling mechanism, the system further comprising a (second flexible control member) extending between the control handle and the position adjusting mechanism.  
no 1st yet claimed

48. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein (the position adjusting mechanism) moves the

anvil and the stapling mechanism relative to one another between the tissue receiving position and a stapling position in which the anvil and the stapling mechanism are separated by a predetermined gap, wherein the predetermined gap is smaller than a separation between the anvil and the stapling mechanism when in the tissue receiving position.

49. (New) A method for resecting tissue from within a body lumen, comprising the steps of:

- 92  
cont.
- a. inserting an operating head coupled to a flexible endoscope into a body lumen, wherein the operating head includes an anvil and a stapling mechanism;
  - b. advancing the operating head within the body lumen to a desired position relative to a selected portion of tissue to be resected;
  - c. moving at least one of the anvil and the stapling mechanism relative to the other from a closed position in which the anvil and the stapling mechanism are adjacent to one another to a tissue receiving position in which the anvil is separated from the stapling mechanism;
  - (c.) drawing the selected portion of tissue into a tissue receiving chamber within the operating head;
  - 2 d. moving at least one of the anvil and the stapling mechanism relative to the other from the tissue receiving position to a stapling position in which a surrounding portion of tissue adjacent to the selected portion of tissue is clamped between the anvil and the stapling mechanism;
  - e. stapling the surrounding portion of tissue; and
  - f. resecting the selected portion of tissue from the surrounding portion of tissue.

50. (New) The method according to claim 49, further comprising the steps of:

- g moving, after the selected portion of tissue has been resected, at least one of the anvil and the stapling mechanism relative to the other from the stapling position to release the surrounding portion of tissue therefrom; and
- h. moving at least one of the anvil and the stapling mechanism relative to the other to the closed position to retain the selected portion of tissue therein.